

CLAIMS:

John
1. A snap-in roof rail air bag assembly for a vehicle having a roof rail, comprising:

an air bag module including an air bag inflator and an air bag with at least one cushion retention tab;

5 a snap-in clip permanently attachable to the roof rail and selectively attachable to the at least one cushion retention tab; and

a removable serviceability attachment feature for attaching the air bag module at the at least one cushion retention tab to the snap-in clip, and for selectively detaching the air bag module from the snap-in clip for removal of the air bag module for service.

10 2. The roof rail air bag assembly of claim 1, further comprising an inflator bracket having an inflator support portion supporting the air bag inflator and an attachment portion having a mounting tab for receiving the serviceability attachment feature, and for capturing the at least one cushion retention tab between the inflator bracket and the snap-in clip.

3. The roof rail air bag assembly of claim 2, further comprising an air bag cover protectingly covering the air bag, and having a tear seam along one edge.

4. The roof rail air bag assembly of claim 3, wherein the cushion retention tab extends through the air bag cover, for at least partially supporting the air bag and the air bag cover.

5. The roof rail air bag assembly of claim 4, wherein the mounting tab of the inflator bracket is attached to the snap-in clip with the serviceability attachment feature.

6. The roof rail air bag assembly of claim 5, wherein the at least one cushion retention tab is captured between the mounting tab and the snap-in clip, thereby further securing the air bag module to the bracket.

7. A method of installing an air bag module having an air bag inflator and an air bag with at least one cushion retention tab in a vehicle having a roof rail, comprising:

5 attaching a snap-in clip to the at least one cushion retention tab with a removable serviceability attachment feature; and

installing the air bag module in the vehicle by inserting the snap-in clip into the roof rail.

8. The method of claim 7, further comprising attaching the air bag module to an inflator bracket having an inflator support portion and an attachment portion with a mounting tab.

9. The method of claim 8, further comprising capturing the cushion retention tab between the mounting tab and the snap-in clip prior to attaching the snap-in clip to the cushion retention tab.

10. In combination with a vehicle having a roof rail, a roof rail air bag assembly adapted for snap-in installation in the roof rail of the vehicle, from outside the vehicle, the air bag assembly comprising:

5 an air bag module including an air bag inflator and an air bag with at least one cushion retention tab;

a snap-in clip permanently attachable to the roof rail and selectively attachable to the at least one cushion retention tab; and

10 a removable serviceability attachment feature for attaching the air bag module at the at least one cushion retention tab to the snap-in clip, and for selectively detaching the air bag module from the snap-in clip for removal of the air bag module for service.

- 5 11. The roof rail air bag assembly of claim 10, further comprising an inflator bracket having an inflator support portion connected to the air bag inflator and an attachment portion having a mounting tab for receiving the serviceability attachment feature, and for capturing the at least one cushion retention tab between the inflator bracket and the snap-in clip.